

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A networked system used to assist a shopper in selecting a product, wherein the product is intended for use by a user, the system comprising:

- a) a database of products;
- b) a server serving the database over a network;
- c) a user interface; and
- d) an expert system posing questions over the user interface to the shopper and querying the database in response to answers to the questions,

wherein the questions posed comprise questions about the user and questions about the product.

2. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the database is a local database directly connected to the server.

3. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the database is connected to the server over a network.

4. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the network is the Internet.

5. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the database is periodically pumped from a dynamic central database.

6. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the database is a dynamically updated central database.

7. A system according to claim 1, further comprising a retail database containing price information and location information.

8. A system according to claim 7, further comprising a retail server serving the retail database over the network, wherein the price information is provided to the user interface.

9. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the user interface further comprises point and click ordering means.

10. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the products are tools.

11. A system according to Claim 8, wherein the products are tools.

12. A system according to claim 1, wherein the questions about the users comprise questions about the skill level of the user.

13. A system according to claim 12, wherein the questions further comprise questions about the interests of the user.

14. A networked system used to assist a shopper in selecting a product, wherein the product is intended for use by a user, the system comprising:

- a) a database of products;
- b) a server serving the database over a network;
- c) a user interface; and
- d) an expert system posing questions over the user interface to the shopper and querying the database in response to answers to the questions,

wherein the questions posed comprise questions about the intended use of the product.

15. A system according to claim 14, wherein the products are tools, and the questions comprise questions about the projects to be built with the tools.

16. A system according to claim 14, wherein the network is the Internet.